

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A database integration management method for managing integrated material-object information into which material-object information about a material object distributed through a plurality of business categories is integrated, comprising the steps of:

associating a material-object identification code identifying each individual material object with material-object information representing information about material object identified by the material-object identification code and storing the material-object identification code and the material-object information in a material-object information database in each of the business categories;

sending the material-object identification code and the material-object information stored in the material-object information database in each business category to a database integration management apparatus;

integrating items of material-object information having the same material-object identification code with each other among the material-object identification codes and items of material-object information received from the material-object information database in each business category to generate integrated material-object information, associating the material-object identification code with the integrated material-object information

0931251.051701

identified by the material-object identification code and storing the material-object identification code and the integrated material-object information in an integrated database of the database integration management apparatus;

requesting the database integration management apparatus to send integrated material-object information associated with a given material-object identification code;

reading the requested integrated material-object information from the integrated database and sending the integrated material-object information to the requester of the integrated material-object information; and,

receiving and outputting said sent integrated material-object information.

2. The database integration management method according to Claim 1, wherein said individual identification code is recorded on an electronic circuit chip attached to each individual material object.

3. The database integration management method according to Claim 2, wherein said electronic circuit chip receives a radio wave sent from an external source, stores the radio wave in the electronic circuit, and sends the material-object identification code stored in said electronic circuit chip to an external source.

09931251.081701

5. The database integration management method according to Claim 1, wherein, when the material-object identification code is associated with the material-object information and they are stored in the material-object information database, the material-object identification code and the material-object information are sent to the database integration management apparatus.

6. The database integration management method according to Claim 1, wherein, when evaluation information about a material object is input, the material-object identification code of the material object and material-object information associated with the material-object identification code are sent to the database integration management apparatus.

7. The database integration management method according to Claim 1, wherein, when the transmission of integrated material-object information associated with

a given material-object identification code is requested, the material-object identification code and material-object information associated with the material-object identification code are sent to the database integration management apparatus.

8. The database integration management method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of: if said integrated material-object information includes evaluation information or sales information about the material object, analyzing material-object information highly correlating with the evaluation information or sales information and sending the result of the analysis to the requester.

9. The database integration management method according to Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

reading the material-object identification code of a particular material object with a sensor contained in an information processing apparatus;

requesting the database integration management apparatus to send integrated material-object information identified by the material-object identification code through the information processing apparatus;

reading said requested integrated material-object information from the integrated database and sending the integrated material-object information from the database integration management apparatus to the requesting information processing apparatus; and,

09931251.081701

an integrated material-object information
storing module for integrating items of material-object
information having the same material-object
identification code with each other among the material-

object identification codes and items of material-object information received from the material-object information database in each business category to generate integrated material-object information, associating the material-object identification code with the integrated material-object information identified by the material-object identification code and storing the material-object identification code and the integrated material-object information in an integrated database of the database integration management apparatus;

an integrated material-object information requesting module for requesting the database integration management apparatus to send integrated material-object information associated with a given material-object identification code;

an integrated material-object information sending module for reading said requested integrated material-object information from the integration database and sending it to the requester; and

an integrated material-object information output module for receiving and outputting said sent integrated material-object information.

11. A database integration management apparatus for managing integrated material-object information into which material-object information about a material object distributed through a plurality of business categories is integrated, comprising:

09034251.081701

an integrated material-object information storing module for integrating items of material-object information having the same material-object identification code with each other among material-object identification codes and items of material-object information received from a material-object information database in each of the business categories to generate integrated material-object information, associating the material-object identification code with the integrated material-object information identified by the material-object identification code and storing the material-object identification code and the integrated material-object information in an integrated database; and,

an integrate material-object information sending module for receiving a request for the transmission of integrated material-object information associated with a given material-object identification code, reading the requested integrated material-object information from the integrated database, and sending the integrated material-object information to the requester.

12. The database integration management apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein, if said integrated material-object information includes evaluation information or sales information about the material object, material-object information highly correlating with the evaluation information or sales information is

09031251.081701

analyzed and the result of the analysis is sent to the requester.

13. A material-object information storing apparatus for storing material-object information about a material object distributed through a plurality of business categories in a material-object information database, comprising:

a material-object information storing module for associating a material-object identification code identifying each individual material object with material-object information representing information about material object identified by the material-object identification code and storing the material-object identification code and the material-object information in a material-object information database in each of the business categories;

a material-object sending module for sending the material-object identification code and the material-object information stored in the material-object information database to a database integration management apparatus;

an integrated material-object information requesting module for requesting the database integration management apparatus to send integrated material-object information associated with said material-object identification code; and,

an integrated material-object information output module for receiving said requested integrated

09931251.081701

material-object information from the database integration management apparatus and outputting said integrated material-object information.

14. The material-object storing apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein if said integrated material-object information includes evaluation information or sales information about the material object, the result of the analysis of material-object information highly correlating with the evaluation information or sales information is received from the database integration management apparatus and output to an output device of the material-object information storing apparatus.

15. An information processing apparatus for using integrated material-object information into which material-object information about an material-object distributed in a plurality of business categories is integrated, comprising:

an integrated material-object information requesting module for reading the material-object identification code of a particular material object with a sensor contained in the information processing apparatus and requesting a database integration management apparatus to send integrated material-object information identified by the material-object identification code; and,

an integrated material-object information output module for receiving said requested integrated

09931251.081701

material-object information from the database integration management apparatus and outputting said integrated material-object information.

16. A computer-readable recording medium containing a program for causing a computer to function as a database integration management apparatus for managing integrated material-object information into which material-object information about a material object distributed through a plurality of business categories is integrated,

wherein said program causes the computer to function as:

an integrated material-object information storing module for integrating items of material-object information having the same material-object identification code with each other among material-object identification codes and items of material-object information received from a material-object information database in each of the business categories to generate integrated material-object information, associating the material-object identification code with the integrated material-object information identified by the material-object identification code and storing the material-object identification code and the integrated material-object information in an integrated database; and,

an integrated material-object information sending module for receiving a request for the

09931251.081701

transmission of integrated material-object information associated with a given material-object identification code, reading the requested integrated material-object information from the integrated database, and sending the integrated material-object information to the requester.

17. The recording medium according to Claim 16, further comprising a program for causing the computer as the integrated material-object information sending module for, if said integrated material-object information includes the evaluation information or sales information about the material object, analyzing material-object information highly correlating with the evaluation information or sales information and sending the result of the analysis to the requester.

18. A computer-readable recording medium containing a program for causing a computer to function as a material-object information storing apparatus for storing material-object information about a material object distributed through a plurality of business categories in a material-object information database, wherein said program causes the computer to function as:

a material-object information storing module for associating a material-object identification code identifying each individual material object with material-object information representing information about material object identified by the material-object

09931251.081701

identification code and storing the material-object identification code and the material-object information in a material-object information database in each of the business categories;

a material-object information sending module for sending the material-object identification code and the material-object information stored in the material-object information database to a database integration management apparatus;

an integrated material-object information requesting module for requesting the database integration management apparatus to send integrated material-object information associated with said material-object identification code; and,

an integrated material-object information output module for receiving said requested integrated material-object information from the database integration management apparatus and outputting said integrated material-object information.

19. The recording medium according to Claim 18, further containing a program for the computer to function as an integrated material-object information output module for, if said integrated material-object information includes the evaluation information or sales information about the material object, receiving the result of the analysis of material-object information highly correlating with the evaluation information or sales information from the database

09931251 081701

integration management apparatus and outputting said result to an output device of the material-object information storing apparatus.

— 20. A computer-readable recording medium containing a program for causing a computer to function as an information management apparatus for using integrated material-object information into which material-object information about a material object distributed through a plurality of business categories is integrated,

wherein said program causes the computer to function as:

an integrated material-object information requesting module for reading the material-object identification code of a particular material object with a sensor contained in the information processing apparatus and requesting a database integration management apparatus to send integrated material-object information identified by the material-object identification code; and,

an integrated material-object information output module for receiving said requested integrated material-object information from the database integration management apparatus and outputting said integrated material-object information.

21. A computer-readable program code to be sent to a storage of a database integration management apparatus for execution thereon to manage integrated

09931251.001701

material-object information into which material-object information about a material object distributed through a plurality of business categories is integrated, comprising:

a code section associating a material-object identification code identifying each individual material object with material-object information representing information about material object identified by the material-object identification code and storing the material-object identification code and the material-object information in a material-object information database in each of the business categories;

a code section sending the material-object identification code and the material-object information stored in the material-object information database in each business category to a database integration management apparatus;

a code section integrating items of material-object information having the same material-object identification code with each other among the material-object identification codes and items of material-object information received from the material-object information database in each business category to generate integrated material-object information, associating the material-object identification code with the integrated material-object information identified by the material-object identification code

099712571 081701

and storing the material-object identification code and the integrated material-object information in an integrated database of the database integration management apparatus;

a code section requesting the database integration management apparatus to send integrated material-object information associated with a given material-object identification code;

a code section reading the requested integrated material-object information from the integrated database and sending the integrated material-object information to the requester of the integrated material-object information; and,

a code section receiving and outputting said sent integrated material-object information.

09031251.001701